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Island forecast mostly sunny cloudy periods
(Details on page 2)

SOLID SOCRED BLOC BEATS CCF RESIGNATION DEMAND

Busload of Bears Lost in London

LONDON (Reuters)—The wife of German animal trainer Franz Krest anxiously told police her husband was lost somewhere in London—in his bus loaded with 24 bears.

"My poor husband," she said, "speaks very little English and the bears must be getting hungry."

Happy Start for World Tour

Whether enjoying a joke or happy to see his visitor, Prime Minister Nehru of India had a laughing greeting for Prince Philip in New Delhi. He will spend two weeks in India to open his round-the-world tour.

Gas Explosion Levels Church

SYDNEY, N.S. (UPI)—An explosion and fire, believed caused by propane gas, destroyed St. John's Anglican Church and parish hall with the loss estimated at $250,000 last night.

Won't Let Up

More Millions Help Housing

OTTAWA (CP) — Solicitor-General Balcer said yesterday in the Commons additional "hundreds of millions" will be poured into housing this year to stimulate employment.

He said the construction drive will continue without letup.

At another point, Mr. Balcer said the government wants to give a "more general" support to construction, both in the field of public housing and in industrial building.

He said that in 1959, industrial construction would experience an unprecedented boom.

Speaking in the Throne Speech debate, he said the government had given a "push" to construction at a time when it had started to lag. Some $750,000,000 had been funnelled into construction in 1958. Loans had been made easier to obtain.

The result in 1958 had been a record number of starts on housing units, totalling 163,000 compared with 122,340 in 1957.

"That is a record surpassing anything that has ever been done in our country."

There have been reports the government plans to add another $350,000,000 for housing loans.

★ ★ ★

OPPOSITION LEADER STRACHAN
. . . promises, promises'

Woodpeckers Poke Poles

VERNON (UPI) — The B.C. Power Commission has run into an unusual hazard.

Nine poles were replaced on the Whatshan-Vernon transmission line during December because of woodpecker damage.

Strachan Flays Bennett Policy

By ALEC MERRIMAN

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan (CCF-Cowichan-Newcastle) yesterday delivered a lengthy denunciation of Social Credit government policy and attitude which at times had Premier Bennett and other cabinet ministers squirming in their seats.

At the end of his hard-hitting speech Mr. Strachan called for a vote, asking for the resignation of the government and charging the government with mishandling the Sommers bribery-conspiracy charges.

MOTION DEFEATED

The non-confidence motion was defeated, 37-14. Liberals, CCF and the two independents voted together.

Strongest attack came on the mental health branch, but the CCF leader's speech ran the gamut through the imposition on the lieutenant-governor to ask him to read such a lengthy Throne Speech, the government's taking over of the Black Ball ferries under the Civil Defence Act, PGE freight rates, school budgets, power policies and power financing and the Sommers case.

BENNETT UNHAPPY

Several times Premier Bennett snapped back denials, questions and dares at the Opposition leader. The premier's face alternately was red, and all smiles. Part of the time the premier turned his back on Mr. Strachan and talked to Highways Minister Gaglardi. After 1½ hours of listening to the speech the premier left the House, obviously unhappy at the unrelenting attacks.

At one point it looked like the premier might be goaded into an election this year, although he has repeatedly said there won't be an election.

CHANGE FORECAST

After hitting hard at the power commission refinancing controversy Mr. Strachan said: "One of these days there is going to be a change and there will be a government which believes in proper development of natural resuorces.'

He mentioned the close results of the Trail byelection. "You are pretty scared right now, Mr. Premier," he taunted.

"Are you asking for one," the premier shouted.

"Yes. You wouldn't dare," said Mr. Strachan.

FATTENED FOR KILL

Mr. Strachan charged the B.C. Power Commission was being "fattened for the kill" and that the "action of this government has brought the power commission to its knees. It has put the power commission in a position where it is fair game for the B.C. Electric and the Wenner-Gren interests."

He said the government should resign because its handling of the Sommers case has "made our province the laughing stock of Canada. It is no longer worthy of the confidence of the people."

But the government members were unshaken by the Opposition leader's words and stuck solidly together when the division bells sounded. If any government member had in mind crossing the floor of the House at this session the

Continued on Page 2

Gregory Tries Can't Sell Cards

Victoria Liberal MLA George Gregory told the legislature yesterday he had been trying to sell membership tickets to the Social Credit League all weekend, but had found no takers.

At Friday's sitting William Murray (SC, Prince Rupert) recalled that Mr. Gregory had offered to be Works Minister Chant's campaign manager when Victoria gets its new courthouse. In the Throne Speech Thursday a start on the courthouse was promised this year. Mr. Murray sent a book of Social Credit membership cards over to Mr. Gregory's desk.

OUT AND STUMP

"My recollection was that I said I would get out and stump for him when the courthouse was built," Mr. Gregory said yesterday.

"You are backing away fast," Mr. Chant retorted.

"We are in a pickle and we haven't got a Hansard," Mr. Gregory replied with a smile. "But no one has ever accused me of being a welcher."

Mr. Gregory said he started trying to sell cards on Saturday. "I am telling you, Mr. Chant, you and I are going to have a tough time to get you elected," he said. "We are going to have an uphill battle."

"Unless you change your attitude," laughed Mr. Chant.

(Full account of Mr. Gregory's speech on Page 13.)

Gift 'Screen' Chamber Idea

Victoria Chamber of Commerce is considering setting up a special bureau to receive all requests for charitable donations.

It would consist of an "anonymous" group of directors, appointed to "pre-screen" all applications. Individual members would receive a regular confidential bulletin giving information on the screening committee's decisions.

CHEST INCLUDED

All requests for charitable donations, even the Greater Victoria Community Chest appeal, would have to go first to this committee.

Applicants would be notified by letter of the committee's decision.

Individual members of the donations bureau would then make their own decisions—in the light of information given by the screening committee—on whether to donate to the charity.

LIKE WINNIPEG'S

Move to set up a donations bureau—run on similar lines to the one successfully operated by Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce — was endorsed yesterday by the retail merchants' group of the Victoria chamber. The proposal must still be approved by other groups within the chamber, and finally by the board of directors.

'SWAMPED'

W. A. Laudrum, chairman of the retail merchants' group, said the proposal has great merit in Victoria, "where we seem to be swamped with requests for money, complimentary advertisements and merchandise."

He added: "We don't want to discourage those with worthy causes—more power to them — but we do hope to screen out some of the undesirable solicitors."

There would be an additional fee of approximately $5, he said, to members who also wish to join the donations bureau.

Germ Story Stretched In Telling

LONDON (Reuters) — Supply Minister Aubrey Jones said yesterday that most of what Sir Robert Watson-Watt, inventor of radar, said last week in Toronto about a pound of a certain substance made from germs being able to wipe out the entire world population has been "ludicrously exaggerated."

Jones was replying to questions in the House of Commons about his ministry's microbiological research centre.

Jones said: "Most of what was said by Dr. Brock Chisholm and Sir Robert Watson-Watt has been grossly, indeed ludicrously, exaggerated."

Hawaii Next?

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Interior Secretary Fred A. Seaton formally opened the administration's fight for Hawaiian statehood Monday amid reports the house might vote by Easter to add a 50th state to the flag.

PRIME MINISTER MACMILLAN

★ ★ ★

May or October?

Election Fever Hits U.K.

LONDON (UPI) — General election fever mounted again in Britain yesterday amid stepped-up British press speculatoin that Prime Minister Harold Macmillan will send the nation to the polls this year.

Legally, elections need not be held until 1960. But political experts generally expect them to take place before that.

The Daily Express says Macmillan has quietly requested the Conservative Parliamentary Condidates Association to hold its annual convention in March this year instead, as usual, after the April budget. The Express predicted elections will be held in May.

The Daily Mail said October is becoming increasingly likely as election month and that Queen Elizabeth may have to defer her planned trip to Ghana until November on account of this.

★ ★ ★

Get to Work —Pearson

OTTAWA (CP) — Opposition Leader Pearson, aligning his party behind a CCF non-confidence motion against the government, Monday night called for an immediate end to the throne speech debate and a Commons start on the government's legislative program.

The CCF motion, which among other things criticized the "absence of social and economic planning" from government policies, was defeated 174 to 48 by the big Progressive Conservative majority.

But the voting was secondary to the desk-thumping enthusiasm with which Liberals greeted Mr. Pearson's proposal, presented in the form of a challenge to the government to do something immediately about the unemployment problem.

Conservative forces had their own turn at desk-thumping when Works Minister Green, government House leader, said that if the Liberals had run out of ideas for the debate "I'm sure they would get some from their new brothers in the CCF."

The throne speech debate can run a maximum 10 days—until the end of the week. The Commons still has to vote on a Liberal non-confidence motion accusing the government of "contradictory and confused policies" and "lamentable indecision" in the face of grave national problems such as mounting unemployment.

Mr. Pearson's supporters gave their most spirited display of desk-banging this session when he wound up with his challenge to the government to allow the Throne Speech debate to end Monday with a vote on the Liberal non-confidence motion as well.

The Commons, he said, could then proceed today with government legislation and other business, giving priority to measures against unemployment.

Doctors to Probe Diet Death Case

VANCOUVER (CP) — A coroner's jury verdict that a diet prescribed by a Vancouver doctor was a factor in the death of a three-month-old child in Prince Rupert will be reviewed in March by the governing body of the B.C. medical profession.

The jury found that Bertha Mae Prince died Dec. 26 of pneumonia caused by starvation and aggravated by her mother's diet.

The verdict will be reviewed by the council of the B.C. College of Physicians and Surgeons, which as a routine requests transcripts of inquests in all cases involving those in the medical profession.

The diet involved was prescribed by Dr. E. E. Rogers, a Vancouver medical doctor who specializes in nutrition problems.

The jury found the child's starvation was from a lack of adequate nourishment and that a diet prescribed for Mrs. Phyllis Prince, 19-year-old mother who was breast-feeding the child, was a contributing factor.

DONNA AUBERT
. . . gets fortune

★ ★ ★

Sweep

Prize Fight Over

DUBLIN (Reuters)—A five-year-old Vancouver girl Monday won a trans-Atlantic fight for £10,000 she won on the Irish Sweepstakes.

The Dublin high court ruled that the money won by Donna Patricia Aubert, daughter of William Aubert of Vancouver, be paid to the Vancouver registry of the British Columbia Supreme Court in trust for Aubert.

Donna's grandfather, John Andrusko, bought an Irish Hospital's Sweepstake ticket in Donna's name in 1957 and sent it to her mother.

But the sweepstakes trustees said they couldn't pay the money to Mr. and Mrs. Aubert and lodged the money to the credit of the daughter in Ireland's courts.

Donna's parents then petitioned the B.C. Supreme Court for an order appointing them guardians of their own daughter.

The order was given, the Irish were persuaded and Monday the money was ticketed for Vancouver and a young girl's future.

Only Canada Lacking Humane Law

VANCOUVER (CP) — Canada now is the only civilized Western nation without humane slaughter legislation, Tom Hughes, B.C., executive director of the SPCA, said Monday.

"This is a sorry position," he said, "but I'm convinced that if the people will get behind us and bring pressure to bear on their local members of Parliament, we will get a bill through this session."

Don't Miss

Protestants Cautious Of Vatican Invitation
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★ ★ ★

Fanfani Coalition Topples in Rome
(Names in News, Page 3)

★ ★ ★

Cuba Ends Spectacle, Trials Move to Court
(Page 5)

★ ★ ★

Paris Brings Back Hour-Glass Figure
(Page 15)

★ ★ ★

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